

and timely manner from feasibility study through remedy selection in a 2013 Record of Decision and remedial design for full-scale dredging and capping with in-situ stabilization and installation of retention tanks to protect the dredged canal from recontamination from combined sewer overflows (CSOs).

The three superfund cleanup sites in New York City fall in my Congressional district and the Gowanus Canal is the furthest along and proceeding at a precedent-setting pace nationally. The Gowanus Canal Community Advisory Group is the largest and most engaged in the Country.

The Team managed enforcement with a disparate group of roughly three dozen PRPs including National Grid, the successor to the operator of coal gasification plants responsible for a significant amount of coal tar related contamination in the Canal, and the City of New York, which owns the canal and is responsible for the sewer infrastructure in the watershed. The City opposed to both the listing of the Gowanus Canal and the CSO portion of the remedy. This made community outreach and enforcement more critical and the EPA team's work in this area has been exceptional.

To achieve the timely start of dredging, Project Manager Christos Tsiamis and Regional Counsel Brian Carr worked tirelessly, issuing unilateral administrative orders in January 2020 to six PRPs, and coordinating with multiple contractors, city agencies, and legal and technical teams to achieve the remedial mobilization.

Dredging canal sediments contaminated with coal tar in this densely populated urban area posed challenges that were overcome through outstanding engineering and oversight by the team. Dredging began in November 2020, and the first phase called Remediation Target Area 1 (RTA1) was completed by mid-2021.

Mr. Tsiamis, Mr. Carr, and Ms. Loney, met regularly with the CAG, local businesses, and other stakeholders. Thanks to their efforts, the main phase of dredging was swiftly completed, setting a high bar for completion of the next two phases of dredging (RTA2 and RTA3). Although enforcement issues remain with respect to the City, obtaining its commitment for this work was a major enforcement accomplishment, a result that the team worked tirelessly and effectively to achieve. For their outstanding work, I would like to recognize EPA Region 2's Gowanus remedial action team: Project Manager Christos Tsiamis, Assistant Regional Counsel Brian Carr, and Community Involvement Coordinator Natalie Loney.

HONORING PASTOR JOSÉ NIEVES
AS A DISTINGUISHED LEADER IN
CENTRAL FLORIDA FOR PRIDE
MONTH

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Mr. SOTO. Madam Speaker, Pastor José Nieves is a native of Bayamón, Puerto Rico. He graduated from Evangel University in Springfield, Missouri, and earned his master's degree in divinity from Asbury Theological Seminary in Orlando, Florida.

He is ordained as a full elder in the Florida Conference of the United Methodist Church.

For over 10 years, he has been at the service of the Kissimmee area at Casa de Paz UMC and First Kissimmee UMC. Pastor José has been named Volunteer of the Year by the Osceola School District for his services to local schools, including the All Pro Dad and iMOM programs.

He continues to find new ways to strengthen the community. Pastor José is married to Libby and has three handsome boys: Ely, Lucas, and Daniel. During his time off, José enjoys everything basketball related, including coaching and rooting for the Orlando Magic. Go Magic.

HONORING GARY RAGGHianti

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the significant career and accomplishments of Gary T. Ragghianti, the 2020 recipient of the Marin County Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

A Marin County resident since 1948, Gary has dedicated his professional career to public service and the law. He graduated from the University of San Francisco School of Law in 1968 and began trying cases in the Marin County District Attorney's Office in 1969. In 1971, Gary joined the private firm of Conn, Breiner, Birkie & Ragghianti, which became Ragghianti Freitas in 2004. Over the course of his half-century-long career, he has served as the city attorney for San Rafael, Belvedere, Tiburon, and Corte Madera, and spent decades as counsel for other public entities in Marin County.

Gary has served on numerous boards throughout his prolific career, including as President of the San Rafael Public Library Foundation Board of Directors and Vice President of the Marin County History Museum Board of Directors. He is also a two-time member of the Board of Directors of Alternate Defenders, Inc., a nonprofit which provides free legal representation to indigent defendants in Marin County.

Over the course of his illustrious career, Gary has appeared twice before the United States Supreme Court. On the first occasion, he argued on behalf of the City of Tiburon at the age of 35. Then, 30 years later, he appeared again for a federal habeas corpus case, further cementing his reputation as a lawyer who can excel at the highest levels.

Gary's commitment to the legal profession and local government in the County of Marin has been, and will continue to be, productive and enduring. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Gary for his commitment to public service and the law, and extending heartfelt congratulations on his reception of the Marin County Bar Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

IN CELEBRATION OF JUNE AS
NATIONAL PRIDE MONTH

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, during this month of June, I would like to take the time to recognize Pride Month. Pride is a time to celebrate the LGBTQ+ community and their contributions to our families, communities, and society at large. Pride is an opportunity for Americans to take pride in who we are without fear of discrimination and to stand in solidarity for equality and against hate. As we celebrate, it is imperative that we also recognize that, while our nation has made important progress with respect to LGBTQ+ rights, much work remains to be done.

I am proud to have helped advance statutory improvements to support LGBTQ+ rights during this Congress. We enacted the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act that combats hate crimes including crimes motivated by sexual orientation or gender identity. In addition, the law allocates money and resources to collect data on and to support victims of hate crimes. We also designated the Pulse Nightclub as a National Memorial in remembrance of those who lost their lives during the Pulse Nightclub shooting in 2019. Further, I'm proud that the People's House championed equality and opposed hate by passing the Equality Act that would afford LGBTQ+ Americans the critical protections under the Civil Rights Act as well as the Global Respect Act to deny visas to perpetrators of human rights abuses against LGBTQ individuals. The Equality Act is a landmark piece of legislation that eliminates discrimination in every major aspect of life, including education, housing, and federal funding programs that have historically excluded members of the LGBTQ+ community. The Senate should act quickly to pass these important bills to protect LGBTQ individuals in our country and internationally.

As the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Worker and Family Support with jurisdiction over child welfare, I am committed to protecting foster youth and foster parents from discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. I worked with my late friend and colleague, John Lewis, to investigate the inappropriate waivers of nondiscrimination rules granted during the Trump Administration that promoted discrimination against foster youth and prospective foster parents. A critical step to protecting foster youth is enacting my legislation—the John Lewis Every Child Deserves a Family Act—that would prohibit any entity that receives federal child welfare funds from discriminating against children, youth, families of origin, kin, or prospective adoptive or foster parents based on religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. Unfortunately, LGBTQ+ youth are overrepresented in the foster care system. An estimated one in three foster youth identify as LGBTQ+, and they are more likely to experience poor treatment, discrimination, or violence while in care. This bill helps increase the number of supportive, loving, and permanent homes for foster youth.

I am troubled by the recent wave of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation that threatens the safety, health, and equal rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, policies that restrict access to healthcare